

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 10, and 11, which are independent, have been amended. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,446,056 to Sadakuni in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,260,016 to Holm, et al. further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,363,301 to Tackett, et al. and further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,802,488 to Edatsune.

Independent claim 1, as amended, now recites, *inter alia*:

“...wherein a voice of said speech synthesizing apparatus is a function of said speech synthesizing information and said personality information.” (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 6,446,056 to Sadakuni (hereinafter, merely “Sadakuni”) relates to a control system which enables a device to autonomously modify its behavior or performance through interaction with its external environment based on experience. The control system collects information on an object of its own concern, stores the information, and updates the information.

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 6,260,016 to Holm, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Holm”) relates to text to speech synthesis. Actual samples of human speech are used to develop prosody templates. The templates define a relationship between syllabic stress patterns and certain prosodic variables such as intonation and duration.

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 6,363,301 to Tackett, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Tackett”) relates to a virtual robot that interfaces and interacts with users. The robot acts as a guide to inform the user about the features of the entity of which the user is interacting. The robot automatically learns from its interactions with users to increase the effectiveness of its interactions.

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 5,802,488 to Edatsune (hereinafter, merely “Edatsune”) relates to interactive speech recognition with improved recognition relates by providing an interactive speech recognition device that performs recognition by taking situational and environmental changes into consideration.

Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Sadakuni, Holm, Tackett, or Edatsune, taken alone or in combination, that would teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, none of Sadakuni, Holm, Tackett, or Edatsune teaches or suggests that the voice of said speech synthesizing apparatus is a function of said speech

synthesizing information and said personality information, as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, amended independent claims 10 and 11 are also believed to be patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the above-identified reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

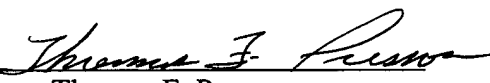
CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of the statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate the portion, or portions, of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our
Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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